

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for a compression architecture utilizing internal cache residing in main memory, the main memory comprising:

- 5 a compression cache to store a plurality of uncompressed data;
 a compressed memory to store a plurality of compressed data; and
 a compressed memory pointer table (CMPT) to store a plurality of pointers.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the compression cache is a sectored cache.

10

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the compression cache has a plurality of associated tags that are incorporated within a memory interface coupled to the apparatus.

4 . The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of pointers are to the plurality of

15 compressed data based on a plurality of cache block addresses.

5. The apparatus of claim 3 is coupled to a memory interface that comprises:

 a victim buffer to store at least one the entry that has been evicted from the compression cache;

20 a CMPT offset calculator to provide an offset relative to the start of the CMPT based on an actual address of the data being compressed

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the memory interface is incorporated within a

processor or a chipset.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the apparatus is incorporated within a memory controller hub (MCH) of the chipset.

5

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the entry is evicted based on a first in first out (FIFO) protocol.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the CMPT stores the plurality of pointers to the plurality of compressed data sequentially based on memory address for which the data is compressed.

10

10. An apparatus for a memory interface comprising:

a first cache to store a plurality of tags for a compression cache;

15 a victim buffer to store at least one the entry that has been evicted from the compression cache;

an offset calculator to provide an offset relative to the start for a Compressed Memory Pointer Table (CMPT) based on an actual address of a data being compressed; and

20 a second cache to store a plurality of pointers for the CMPT.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the memory interface is incorporated within a processor or a chipset.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the apparatus is incorporated within a memory controller hub (MCH) of the chipset.

13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the entry is evicted based on a first in first out
5 (FIFO) protocol.

14. A method for operating an memory operation comprising:
receiving a memory address for the memory operation;
storing a plurality of compressed data in a main memory; and
10 performing a tag match between the memory address and a first cache storing a plurality
of tags for a compressed memory in the main memory.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising accessing a plurality uncompressed data
15 access from the compression cache is performed if the tag match resulted in a hit.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising locating a pointer and
subsequently finding a compressed memory location based at least in part
on the pointer if the tag match resulted in a miss for the memory operation for a read
20 miss.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising compressing the data
and storing it in a compressed memory location for the memory operation for a write

miss.

18. A system comprising:

a processor; and

5 a main memory, coupled to the processor, with a

a compression cache to store a plurality of uncompressed data;

a compressed memory to store a plurality of compressed data; and

a compressed memory pointer table (CMPT) to store a plurality of pointers.

10 19. The system of claim 18 wherein the compression cache is a sectored cache.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the compression cache has a plurality of associated tags that are incorporated within a memory interface coupled to the apparatus.

15 21 . The system of claim 18 wherein the plurality of pointers are to the plurality of compressed data based on a plurality of cache block addresses.

22. A system comprising:

a processor; and

20 a memory interface, coupled to the processor, with a:

a first cache to store a plurality of tags for a compression cache;

a victim buffer to store at least one the entry that has been evicted from the compression cache;

an offset calculator to provide an offset relative to the start for a Compressed

Memory Pointer Table (CMPT) based on an actual address of a data being compressed; and

a second cache to store a plurality of pointers for the CMPT.

5

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the memory interface is incorporated within a processor or a chipset.

10

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the apparatus is incorporated within a memory controller hub (MCH) of the chipset.

15

25. The system of claim 22 wherein the entry is evicted based on a first in first out (FIFO) protocol.

26. A system comprising:

a processor, coupled to a memory bridge, the memory bridge to comprise;

a first cache to store a plurality of tags for a compression cache;

20

a victim buffer to store at least one the entry that has been evicted from the compression cache;

an offset calculator to provide an offset relative to the start for a Compressed Memory Pointer Table (CMPT) based on an actual address of a data being compressed; and

25

a second cache to store a plurality of pointers for the CMPT and

a main memory, coupled to the memory bridge, to comprise

a compression cache to store a plurality of uncompressed data;

a compressed memory to store a plurality of compressed data; and

a compressed memory pointer table (CMPT) to store a plurality of pointers.

5

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the compression cache is a sectored cache.

28. The system of claim 26 wherein the compression cache has a plurality of associated

tags that are incorporated within a memory interface coupled to the apparatus.

10

29 . The system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of pointers are to the plurality of

compressed data based on a plurality of cache block addresses.

15